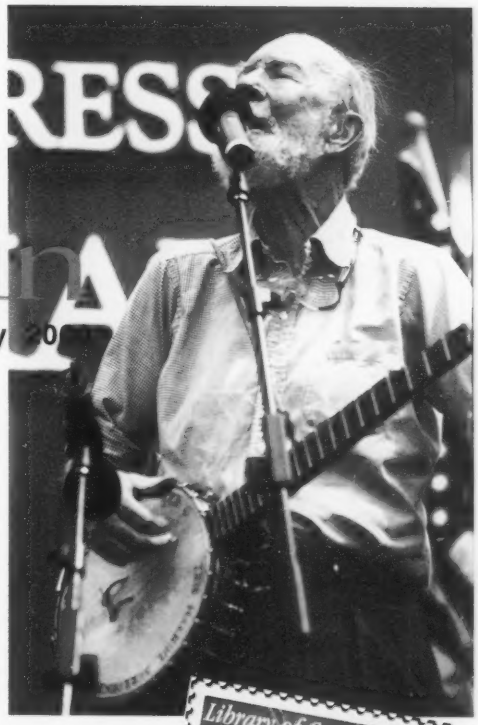
The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS

Information Bulletin

Vol. 59, No. 5 May 20



America's Story
from America's Library

The Library Celebrates Its Bicentennial: April 24, 2000

The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 59, No. 5 May 2000

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
200
LIBRARIES • CREATIVITY • LIBERTY

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: April 24 was an exciting day of celebration at the Library. Clockwise from upper right: Living Legend Pete Seeger singing *Turn! Turn! Turn!;* the Library of Congress Bicentennial commemorative stamp; design elements from the new Web site for children and families, "America's Library"; percussionist Tito Puente; the bimetallic Bicentennial commemorative coin; jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves. *Photos by Paul Hogroian.*

Cover Stories: The Library of Congress observed its 200th birthday on April 24, 2000, with a full day of special events:

- "America's Library," a new Web site for children and families, draws on the Library's rich Internet resources. 103
- Ceremonies, receptions and a musical celebration marked the day. 105
- Artists, writers, activists, filmmakers, physicians, entertainers, sports figures and public servants were honored as "Living Legends." 109
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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (ISSN 0041-7904) is issued monthly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the World Wide Web at www.loc.gov/today.

Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Support Services, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin,* Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610, e-mail lcib@loc.gov.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Designer

Web Site for Children and Families Debuts

'There Is a Better Way to Have Fun with History'

"America's Library" (**www.americaslibrary.gov**), a new, easy-to-use and entertaining Web site designed especially for children and their families, debuted on April 24, during an 11 a.m. press event in the Jefferson Building, as part of the Library's Bicentennial celebration. The site was created to provide kids with an entertaining educational experience that draws on the unparalleled American historical collections of the Library.

"'America's Library' is our latest initiative to make the Library's collections as accessible as possible to all Americans," said Dr. Billington. "With this new Web site, children and their families will be able to learn about history in a new and exciting way. 'America's Library' puts the 'story' back in history."

Through the use of stories, richly embellished with photographs, maps, prints, manuscripts, and audio and video recordings from the Library's collections, "America's Library" invites users to learn about our past through extraordinary, at times idiosyncratic, materials, many of which have never been seen by the public. Interactive elements such as a "Scavenger Hunt" and "Send a Postcard" will encourage exploration of the site, and animated "teasers" on the main home page will delight users of all ages. Questions invite children to talk to their family and friends about what they have learned.

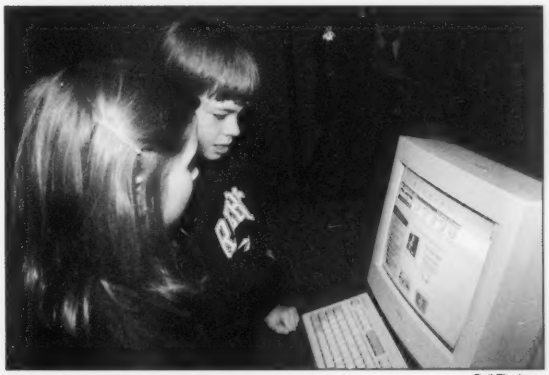
Bold graphics and bright colors will entice users to click on the following main home page links:

Meet Amazing Americans

Do you know what Abraham Lincoln had in his pockets on the night he was assassinated? Or the name of the newspaper that Frederick Douglass started to promote freedom for all slaves? The answers are among the fascinating facts conveyed in this section about these and other amazing Americans such as George Washington, Buffalo Bill, Harriet Tubman, Houdini and Teddy Roosevelt. (*Answers:* Lincoln was carrying eyeglasses, a handkerchief, nine newspaper clippings — all favorable to Lincoln, a lens polisher and a $5 Confederate note. Frederick Douglass founded *The North Star,* so named because slaves escaping at night often followed the North Star in the sky to freedom.)

Jump Back in Time

On what day did Thurgood Marshall become a Supreme Court Justice? Who was the first woman doctor in the United States? Click on "Jump Back in Time" and visit any day in history. (*Answers:* On Oct. 2, 1967, Marshall became the first African American Supreme Court justice. Elizabeth Blackwell was America's first woman doctor; she graduated on Oct. 19, 1849, with an M.D. from a medical college in New York — the only school that would accept her.)



Gail Fineberg

Children attending the introduction of the new "America's Story from America's Library" Web site wasted no time "logging on, playing around, and learning something" on Internet workstations set up for their use following the program.

Explore the States

Take a trip across the country without ever leaving your home. Do you know how Virginia got its name? Or why people from Oklahoma are sometimes called "Sooners"? What's the "Golden State"? (*Answers:* Virginia is named for Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen of England. "Sooners" are thus named because in 1889, these people had already staked their claims before the land was officially opened for settlement. The "Golden State" is California.)

Join America at Play

From America's pastime — baseball — to dancing, the nation at play is the focus. Everyone thinks of baseball as a uniquely American game, but do you know its origin? Is break-dancing a recent invention? (*Answers:* No one is exactly sure how baseball began, but it seems to have its roots in the English children's game called "rounders" or "four-old-cat" that was pictured in a British children's magazine in 1760. A film from 1898 shows an early "break-dancer" in New York City.)

See, Hear and Sing

The origins of animation, oddball instruments, and disasters, devastation and destruction are among the topics explored through films and sound recordings. Want to know who invented animation and when? Or the magnitude of the great earthquake that struck San Francisco in 1906? (*Answers:* Georges Melies in 1896. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 registered 8.3.)

"America's Library" marks the first time in its history that the Library of Congress has created a public service advertising campaign in partnership with the Advertising Council. This campaign — "There Is a Better Way to Have Fun with History ... Log On. Play Around. Learn Something" — was created through the Advertising Council, with creative services donated by DDB Worldwide in Chicago. The spots will be distributed to 3,200 television stations and more than 6,000 radio stations nationwide on April 24. In addition to television and radio spots, an innovative Web banner featuring a pop-up film will be available for viewing and downloading through the Ad Council Web site at **www.adcouncil.org**.

The Advertising Council is a private, nonprofit organization that has been the leading producer of public service communications programs in the United States since 1942. The Council supports campaigns that benefit children, families and communities. The communications programs are national in scope and have generated strong, measurable results. Ad Council campaigns, such as "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk," "Take A Bite Out of Crime," and "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste," have helped to save lives and resources, to educate the public about issues and concerns of the day, and to make America a healthier country in which to live. In 1998, Ad Council campaigns received more than $1 billion in donated media time and space.

DDB Chicago is the largest of the DDB agencies worldwide, with more than 750 employees and 1999 billings of $1.2 billion. The agency works for a strong roster of blue-chip clients such as Anheuser-Busch, Energizer, FTD, General Mills, Lands' End, Sara Lee, McDonald's, State Farm and U S West Communications.

The "America's Library" Web site is hosted by GlobalCenter Inc., a Global Crossing company. GlobalCenter is a leading Internet services business providing customers the Internet infrastructure, including complex Web hosting, necessary to manage complex online enterprises. GlobalCenter's customers include many of the largest and most densely trafficked sites on the Web. Global Crossing, GlobalCenter's parent company, is building, and offering services over, the world's first global fiber optic network, which will have more than 101,000 route miles, serving five continents, 27 countries and more than 200 major cities.

"America's Library" was designed by 415 Productions Inc. of San Francisco. 415 Inc. is a full-service Web development firm providing custom online solutions that combine integrated strategy, cutting-edge technology, creative design and innovative user experiences. From Fortune 500 enterprises to internationally recognized arts organizations and upstart dot-coms, 415's clients include Hewlett-Packard, McGraw-Hill, Macromedia, Credit Suisse, the Library of Congress, 3Com, Fairmont Hotels, Hasbro, Intel, Lego and Providian Financial.

Yusef El-Amin

Peggy Conlon, president of the Advertising Council, joined the Librarian to introduce the site.

The content of the Web site has been reviewed by historians in the Library of Congress as well as by Distinguished University Professor of American history James B. Gilbert at the University of Maryland.

"America's Library" is a project of the Library of Congress's Public Affairs Office and the National Digital Library Program. By the end of 2000, the flagship American Memory collections (**www.loc.gov**) will offer more than 5 million historically important items, in collaboration with other institutions. More than 70 American Memory collections are now available in topics ranging from presidential papers and photographs from the Civil War, to early films of Thomas Edison and panoramic maps, to documents from the women's suffrage and civil rights movements. ◆

Library Celebrates Bicentennial

Coin, Stamp, Gifts and Concert Featured

BY GAIL FINEBERG

A happier 200th birthday for the Library would be hard to imagine. Bicentennial events began at 8 a.m. on April 24 with long lines and record-breaking commemorative coin and stamp sales, peaked with the launch of a new Web site and a three-hour birthday party on the East Lawn of the Capitol and ended with a Great Hall reception and celebratory remarks by Sens. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and historian David McCullough.

On the afternoon of April 24, the only sunny day in two weeks, more than 5,000 people gathered on the Capitol's East Lawn, facing the Thomas Jefferson Building, for a three-hour birthday party.

The program opened with speeches by Dr. Billington and Gen. Colin Powell. "This Library is a gift to the nation," said Dr. Billington, emphasizing as he did in several speeches throughout the day that "this is a national celebration, not just of an institution but of the role of libraries everywhere in providing free and open access to knowledge and information."

Alluding often during the day to the Library's Jeffersonian principle of democratizing information, the Librarian said the Library's Bicentennial gift to the nation is making its historical record of American creativity widely accessible to everyone via its Web sites. He spoke of the well established and popular American Memory (**www.loc.gov**) collections of more than 3 million items and then told of a new site, America's Library (**www.americaslibrary.gov**), aimed at children.

"Today, we're unveiling a new kids' Web site, America's Library, which is easy to access and user-friendly," Dr. Billington said on stage during a jam-packed press briefing, which included a demonstration of the site and screening of the television ads that will support it. "We're putting the 'story' back in 'history,'" he said.

On its first day alone, the Web site registered 795,261 hits.

To reach a nationwide audience of young learners, the Library is publicizing its new Web site with its first-ever public-service campaign, in partnership with the Advertising Council. The ads will be aired on television and radio, and a Web "banner" has been developed for the Internet (see story on page 102).

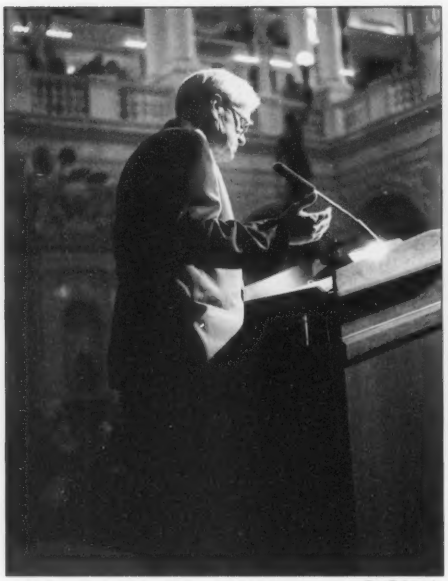
ABC journalist Cokie Roberts, whose mother, Ambassador Lindy Boggs, was honorary Bicentennial co-chairman with retired Oregon Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, emceed a birthday party program as eclectic as the Library itself.

She and Gen. Powell, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, opened with the Library's creation story — told often throughout the day and evening — of the act of Congress, ratified by President John Adams on April 24, 1800, that created a congressional Library that began with 740 books and three maps; of cash-strapped Thomas Jefferson selling his beloved private library of 6,487 volumes for $23,950 to Congress in 1815, to replace volumes burned in a Capitol fire set by the British in 1814; of the diverse collection that has grown to more than 119 million items; of recent efforts, supported by John Kluge and other friends of the Library, to expand free and open

Susan Davis International

More than 5,000 people enjoyed the afternoon birthday celebration concert on the East Front lawn of the U.S. Capitol; Big Bird and Maria enjoyed the festivities and helped blow out the candle on the birthday cake.

Paul Hogroian



Dan Dalrymple

Susan Davis International

Dr. Billington (left) and Deputy Librarian Donald Scott (above at lectern) host ceremonies unveiling the Library's commemorative stamp and coins in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building on the morning of the Bicentennial.

access to the Library through the Internet.

Of course, books figured in the celebration. Demonstrating his love for the printed word, Dr. Billington settled into a chair to read Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* to a gathering of children. Roger Baum read a letter from grandfather L. Frank Baum, whose copyright for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was celebrated in a Library exhibition, in which the author told his audience of "dear readers" how much their love of his story meant to him.

In the spirit of Harry Houdini, whose collections are housed at the Library, illusionist David Copperfield asked the audience to suspend disbelief while he all but "disappeared" into a 1-foot-wide box, with his head protruding from one side and his feet from the other.

"Sesame Street's" Big Bird and his handler, Maria, then joined Dr. Billington on stage. "C and D are some of my favorite letters," chirped Big Bird, adding, "I love to go to the Library."

Big Bird and 33 other "Living Legends" (two had stand-ins), lined up on the stage to receive medals from Dr. Billington in honor of their contributions to American life and culture. The Library's staff had selected 84 Americans (see list on page 109), whose careers are as diverse as the Library's collections — cartoonists, artists and activists, sports figures, scholars, scientists and entertainers.

"I do a lot of charity events, but this was a fabulously different event. To have so many of the Living Legends show up shows you what they think of the Library," Ms. Roberts said.

Living Legend Mickey Hart introduced a medley of American musicmakers — Native American drummers and singers, African American dancers, country singers Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys and Kathy Mattea, Latin percussionists Tito Puente and Giovanni Hidalgo, folk-singers Pete Seeger and his grandson, Tao Rodriguez, jazz singer Diane Reeves, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and the soul group the Chi-Lites — all backed by the Saturday Night Live Band. (Mr. Puente recently died, on June 1.)

Middle-school girls shrieked with glee and admiration as two members of 'N Sync appeared at the podium briefly. After the concert, the girls raced around a fence to try for one last glimpse of the departing stars.

In an amped-up finale, with the crowd rocking along with the performers, Mr. Hart joined his Grateful Dead colleague Bob Weir on stage with the Eastern High School Choir, Ms. Reeves and Mr. Hidalgo. All the performers appeared together for "This Land Is My Land."

An evening reception celebrated the generosity of the Madison Council, the Library's private sector advisory group, which supported the Bicentennial events, and the opening of the exhibition focusing on Thomas Jefferson's life, love of books and conflicting ideas. After Sens. Stevens and Dodd praised the Library and the Librarian for his leadership, historian David McCullough concluded official ceremonies of the day with his eloquent expression of reverence for the Library.

"What a glorious and truly worthy cause for celebration this is," he said, reviewing the story of the Library's creation that included a glimpse of an 1815 congressional debate. One member asked his colleagues if they realized how much they were spending for books, not to mention "books in foreign languages you cannot read."

"How many books have gone out of here, that were inspired here?" McCullough asked. "If books are voyages to discovery, this certainly is the port of embarkation." ◆

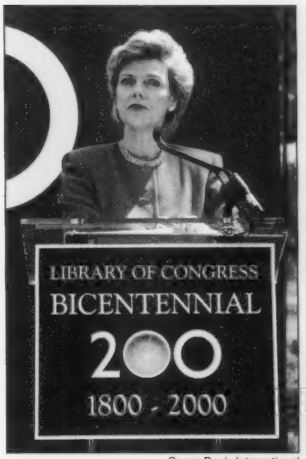
Ms. Fineberg is the editor of The Gazette, *the Library's staff newspaper.*

Susan Davis International

Rori Godsey, a freshman at Archbishop Carrol High School in Washington, sings the National Anthem to an appreciative crowd to open the Library's Bicentennial birthday celebration.

Dan Dalrymple

ABC journalist Cokie Roberts emceed the program, which included performances and participation by drummers and chanters known as the Smokey Town Singers; country vocalist Kathy Mattea, retired Gen. Colin Powell and two members of the pop group 'N Sync; the weather cooperated and the large crowd enjoyed the sunny afternoon of music and celebration.



Susan Davis International

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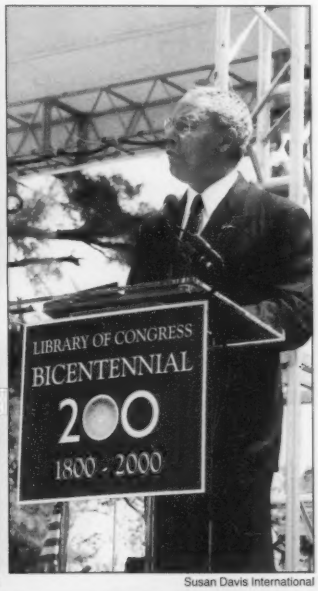

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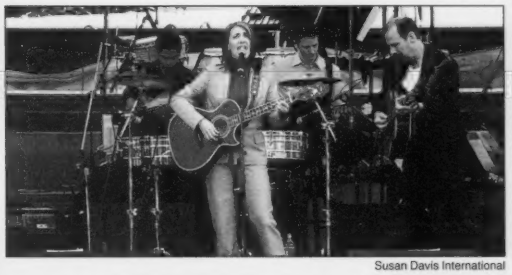

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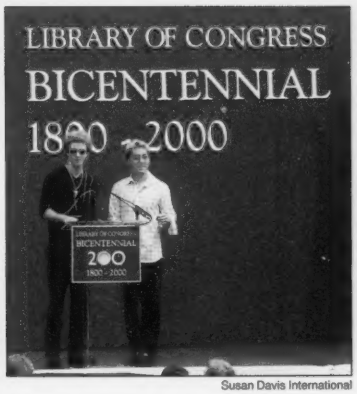
Dan Dalrymple



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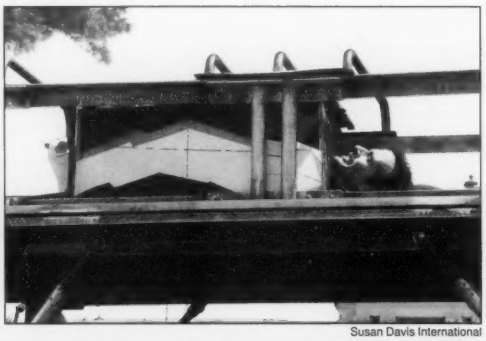
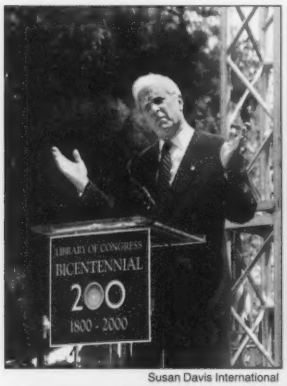


Susan Davis International

David Copperfield's assistant watches her boss magically disappear into a 1-foot-wide box; Dr. Billington tells of the importance of libraries in America; among the Library's 84 Living Legends honored at the event were Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Alan Lomax, Gordon Parks, Katherine Paterson, Jaroslav Pelikan, Colin Powell and Tito Puente.



Susan Davis International

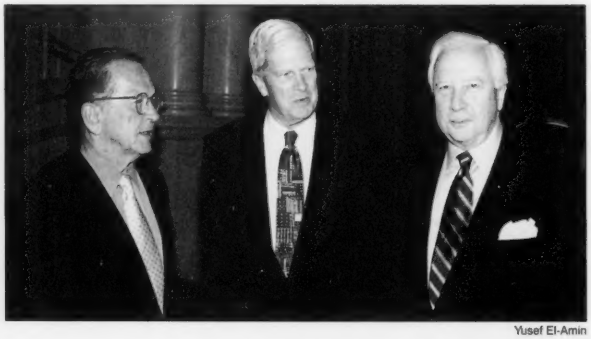
Susan Davis International

Jim Higgins

Susan Davis International

Bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys perform; Living Legends Ahmet Ertegun, Andrew Goodpastor, Catherine Galbraith (accepting for her husband, John Kenneth Galbraith), Katharine Graham and Mickey Hart; Janice Ruth of the Manuscript Division accompanies Gloria Steinem, another Living Legend; Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, Dr. Billington and historian David McCullough attended the evening reception and opening of the Bicentennial exhibition "Thomas Jefferson."

Yusef El-Amin



Yusef El-Amin

Living Legends

Americans Honored for Creative Contributions

The Library of Congress honored more than 80 "Living Legends" as part of its Bicentennial celebration. Medals were bestowed by Dr. Billington during a National Birthday Party and Concert on the East Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

"During its yearlong celebration of its Bicentennial, the Library of Congress is recognizing a number of Americans whose varied creative contributions to American life have made them living legends," he said

"Selected by the Library's curators and subject specialists, those honored include artists, writers, activists, filmmakers, physicians, entertainers, sports figures and public servants. Each in his or her own way has advanced and embodied the quintessentially American ideal of individual creativity, conviction, dedication and exuberance. Their professional accomplishments and sense of commitment have enabled them to provide examples of personal excellence that have benefited others and enriched our nation in a variety of ways."

The list of Living Legends reflects the breadth and diversity of America's cultural and civic heritage, which is mirrored in the Library's unparalleled collections of more than 119 million items in some 460 languages. Among those in 10 disciplines who have been selected are: children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak, whose works enrich the Library's Children's Literature collection; author William Styron, who has worked with the Library's Center for the Book to promote literacy and some of whose personal papers are housed in the Library's Manuscript Division; caricaturist Al Hirshfeld, whose craft is honored by the Library's Swann Gallery of Caricature and Cartoon; composer Stephen Sondheim, whose 70th birthday will be celebrated on May 22 at a special musical tribute in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium; filmmaker Steven Spielberg, two of whose films are included in the Library's National Film Registry ("E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark"); percussionist Mickey Hart and folk singer Pete Seeger, who have worked with the Library's American Folklife Center to preserve the nation's musical heritage; and comedian Bob Hope, whose field is being honored on May 10 with the opening of the Library's Bob Hope Gallery of Entertainment. ◆

Living Legends

Hank Aaron — baseball player
Madeleine Albright — federal official, diplomat, political scientist, educator
Muhammad Ali — boxer
Harry Belafonte — musician, actor, humanitarian
Tony Bennett — singer
Big Bird — television star
Larry Bird — basketball player
Herbert Block (Herblock) — political cartoonist
Judy Blume — author
T. Berry Brazelton — physician
Gwendolyn Brooks — poet
William F. Buckley Jr. — magazine editor, writer, television host
Carol Burnett — comedian, actor, entertainer, singer
Benjamin Solomon Carson — pediatric neurosurgeon
Benny Carter — musician, songwriter
Johnny Cash — musician, songwriter
Vinton Cerf — technology innovator
Ray Charles — musician
Linda Chavez — public official, political commentator
Julia Child — chef, author, television performer
Beverly Cleary — author
David Copperfield — magician
Bill Cosby — actor, entertainer, comedian, philanthropist
Walter Cronkite — broadcast journalist
Merce Cunningham — choreographer, dancer, dance company director
Michael DeBakey — physician, surgeon
Sylvia A. Earle — oceanographer
Marian Wright Edelman — civil rights activist, human rights advocate
Ahmet Ertegun — record company
Suzanne Farrell — dancer, executive, teacher
John Kenneth Galbraith — economist, author
Andrew Goodpastor — retired army officer
Stephen Jay Gould — biologist, educator, author
Katharine Graham — publisher, chairman of the executive committee of *The Washington Post*
Mickey Hart — musician
Al Hirshfeld — caricaturist, illustrator
Bob Hope — comedian, entertainer, film star
Quincy Jones — musician, composer, arranger, producer, entertainment executive
Jenette Kahn — DC Comics (for Superman)
Max Kampelman — lawyer, diplomat, educator
George Kennan — statesman, author on American diplomatic history
Jackie Joyner Kersee — track and field athlete
B.B. King — musician
Billie Jean King — tennis player
Jeanne Kirkpatrick — diplomat
Ursula LeGuin — author
Annie Leibovitz — photographer
Carl Lewis — track and field athlete
John Lewis — civil rights activist, member of Congress
Alan Lomax — folklorist, ethnomusicologist
Yo Yo Ma — musician
Robert McCloskey — author, illustrator
Mark McGwire — baseball player
Rita Moreno — actress, dancer, singer
Toni Morrison — author
Gordon Parks — photographer
Katherine Paterson — author
I.M. Pei — architect
Jaroslav Pelikan — historian, author
Itzhak Perlman — musician
Colin Powell — retired U.S. Army General
Leontyne Price — opera singer
Tito Puente — percussionist, bandleader, arranger
Sally Ride — astronaut
Cal Ripken Jr. — baseball player
Fred Rogers — television star
Philip Roth — author
Martin Scorsese — filmmaker
Pete Seeger — folk singer
Maurice Sendak — author
Bobby Short — pianist, singer
Stephen Sondheim — composer, lyricist
Steven Spielberg — filmmaker
Ralph Stanley — musician
Gloria Steinem — journalist, activist
Isaac Stern — musician
Barbra Streisand — actor, singer, entertainer, filmmaker
William Styron — author
Harold Varmus — government health institutes administrator, educator
Gwen Verdon — dancer, actress
Lew Wasserman — film, recording and publishing company executive
Fred Whipple — astronomer
Tiger Woods — golfer
Herman Wouk — author

Honoring the Library and Its Bicentennial

Three Resolutions and Two Proclamations

BY JOHN Y. COLE

Resolutions and proclamations often are tricky. Sometimes they are meaningless. At other times their meaning comes not as much from the words but from the effort that produces them.

Both the words and the efforts behind the words mattered in the three Bicentennial resolutions and two Bicentennial proclamations that Dr. Billington announced during the Bicentennial celebration on April 24. The resolutions and proclamations came from important but different constituencies: the U.S. Congress; the American Library Association; the California State Senate; the executive branch, represented by the president of the United States; and the District of Columbia, represented by the mayor. Each statement congratulates the Library of Congress, but thus highlights different Library of Congress functions and services. ◆

Concurrent Resolution from the U.S. Congress

H. Con. Res. 269 was approved by the House of Representatives on March 28, 2000 by a vote of 416-0, and by the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent on April 13.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION Commending the Library of Congress and its staff for 200 years of outstanding service to Congress and the Nation and encouraging the American public to participate in bicentennial activities.

Whereas the Library of Congress, America's oldest Federal cultural institution was established on April 24, 1800, and in its 200 years has become the largest and most inclusive library in human history;

Whereas the Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity;

Whereas, in furtherance of its mission, the Library has amassed an unparalleled collection of 119 million items, a superb staff of "knowledge navigators," and networks for gathering the world's knowledge for the Nation's good;

Whereas the Library, the Congress, and the Nation have benefited richly from the work of thousands of talented and dedicated Library employees through its 200-year history;

Whereas the citizens of the United States have generously contributed to the Library's collections through their own creativity, social and scholarly discourse, donation of materials in all formats, and generous philanthropic support;

Whereas the goal of the Library's bicentennial commemoration is to inspire creativity in the centuries ahead and remind Americans that all libraries are the cornerstones of democracy, encouraging greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries everywhere;

Whereas this goal will be achieved through a variety of national, State, and local projects, developed in collaboration with Members of Congress, the staff of the Library of Congress, librarians and librarians throughout the Nation, and the Library's James Madison Council and other philanthropic supporters;

Whereas the centerpiece of the bicentennial celebration is the Local Legacies Project, a joint effort of the Congress and the Library of Congress to document distinctive cultural traditions and historic events representing local communities throughout the country at the turn of the 21st century; and

Whereas the bicentennial commemorative activities also include symposia, exhibitions, publications, significant acquisitions, the issuance of a commemorative coin and stamp, and enhanced public access to the collections of the Library of Congress through the National Digital Library: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Congress commends the Library of Congress and its employees, both past and present, on 200 years of service to the Congress and the Nation and encourages the American public to participate in activities to commemorate the Library's bicentennial.

Resolution from the American Library Association

Resolution Congratulating the Library of Congress on 200 Years of Service to the Congress and the Nation, Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association, January 19, 2000

Whereas the Library of Congress will celebrate the Bicentennial of its founding on April 24, 2000; and

Whereas the Library of Congress theme of "Libraries-Creativity-Liberty" recognizes the contribution that all libraries make to our nation and its local communities; and

Whereas to mark the Library of Congress's Bicentennial, the American Library Association and the Library of Congress have developed "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries," a national photography contest and future traveling exhibition, a Tip Sheet for promoting libraries and building partnerships, and a Bicentennial Toolkit for "Celebrating Libraries-Creativity-Liberty" in libraries nationwide; and

Whereas the Library of Congress and the American Library Association have collaborated on arrangements for libraries throughout the nation to be sites for second-day issue ceremonies for the Library of Congress Bicentennial postage stamp; and

Whereas historically the Library of Congress has played a major role in the development of national library services and technical standards in all aspects of librarianship, particularly cataloging, classification, preservation, the sharing of bibliographic data, the Copyright Office, and library services for the blind and physically handicapped; and

Whereas in cooperation with the American Library Association, the Library of Congress has played a major

role in promoting libraries and librarianship in the United States and in countries throughout the world; and

Whereas through the years many Library of Congress staff members have served as officers, executive board and committee members of the American Library Association, including eight individuals who have been President of the American Library Association: Herbert Putnam (1898,1903-04), Ernest Cushing Richardson (1904-05), William Warner Bishop (1918-19), Herman H.B. Meyer (1924-25), L. Quincy Mumford (1954-55), Lucile M. Morsch (1957-58), Frederick H. Wagman (1963-64), and Carol Nemeyer (1982-83); and

Whereas the Library of Congress, as the largest library in the world with a collection of materials in many forms and languages, sets a high standard of performance and service in which all Americans can take pride; now, therefore be it

Resolved that the American Library Association congratulates the Library of Congress and joins the Congress, the American people, and the staff of the Congress and its service to the Nation during its Bicentennial commemoration. ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, January 19, 2000 (s) William R. Gordon, Secretary of the Council.

Proclamation from the President of the United States

Bicentennial of the Library of Congress, A Proclamation by the President of the United States, April 21, 2000

The Library of Congress is truly America's library. Established on April 24, 1800, as the Congress prepared to transfer the Federal Government from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., it is our country's oldest Federal cultural institution. With Thomas Jefferson's private library as its core, the Library of Congress has reflected from its earliest days the breadth and variety of Jefferson's interests and his love of democracy, expanding the store of human knowledge and helping ensure the free flow of ideas.

Two centuries later, the Library's collections remain diverse and expansive, containing materials on virtually every subject, in virtually every medium. The Library houses approximately 120 million items, including more than 18 million books and some of the world's largest collections of maps, manuscripts, photographs, prints, newspapers, sound recordings, motion pictures, and other research materials. The Library also offers wide-ranging services to the Government and the public, serving simultaneously as a legislative library and the major research arm of the United States Congress; the copyright agency of the United States; the world's largest law library; and a major center for preserving research materials and for digitizing documents, manuscripts, maps, motion pictures, and other specialized materials for use on the Internet.

Today America's library is also the world's library. An international resource of unparalleled reach, the Library of Congress provides services through its 21 reading rooms in three buildings on Capitol Hill as well as electronically through its web site, which registers more than four million transactions each workday from people around the globe. With its remarkable collections and resources, the Library has truly fulfilled its stated mission to make "available and useful... and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations."

Libraries have always enabled people, in the words of James Madison, to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." These words, inscribed at the entrance of the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress, are a tribute to the Library's past and a sustaining

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Resolution from the California State Senate

Introduced by State Senator Deborah Ortiz and approved on January 12.

Whereas the People of California take the momentous occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the California State Library to recognize the Library of Congress on the occasion of its Bicentennial; and

Whereas the People of California gratefully acknowledge the visit and inspiration of the Honorable James H. Billington, the 13th Librarian of Congress, in celebrating the founding of the California State Library, the oldest government library and cultural institution in the Far Western United States; and

Whereas under the able direction of Dr. James Billington, the Library is the foremost knowledge and information center in the world; and

Whereas under Dr. Billington's dynamic leadership, the Library of Congress has considerably benefited the people of California through its myriad programs ranging from information technology to the preservation and dissemination of its vast resources; and

Whereas for two centuries, the Library of Congress has preserved the memory of the American people and the American experience; and

Whereas the Library of Congress continues to make an invaluable contribution to the understanding and interpretation of California's unparalleled history through its rich collections and generous outreach programs; and

Whereas through its Center for the Book, the Library of Congress has stimulated a new appreciation for reading, literacy, the book arts, printing history, and book collecting throughout the Golden State; and

Whereas through its National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Library of Congress has made possible the California State Library's invaluable service to the visually impaired; and

Whereas the Library of Congress is to be congratulated for its extraordinary service to the nation over the past two centuries; and

Whereas the 200th birthday of America's national library in the year 2000 serves to underscore the vital role libraries play in our democratic society and the leadership of the Library of Congress as it embarks upon its third century; now, therefore be it

Resolved by Senator Deborah Ortiz, that she commends the Honorable James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, on the occasion of the California State Library's Sesquicentennial, and the Library of Congress's Bicentennial, and conveys to him the appreciation of the public for the serious manner in which he worked to preserve for future generations the history of our nation.

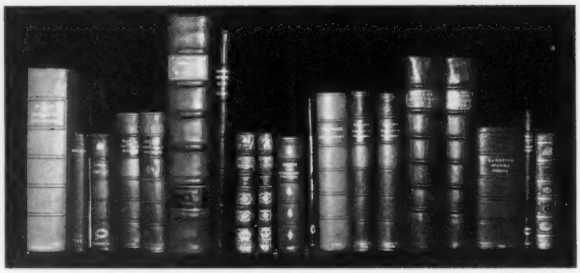
Gifts to the Nation

Project Expands Library's Depth and Diversity

BY DONNA URSCHEL

More than two years ago, in anticipation of its 200th birthday, the Library of Congress drew up a list of potential gifts, historically significant and rare materials that would add depth and diversity to the Library's existing collections.

All sorts of things were on the list: the Harry A. Blackmun papers, a Beethoven letter, the letters of Edna St. Vincent Millay, the Martha Graham Archives, long-playing jazz discs, identical books from Thomas Jefferson's original library, a Persian celestial globe, the Revolutionary War maps drawn by Lafayette's cartographer and many more items. The categories included Americana; maps, atlases and globes; rare books and foreign rarities; performing arts and visual arts.



Jim Higgins

Books from the original collection of Thomas Jefferson, sold to the Library after the British burned the Capitol in 1814

In addition to acquisitions, the Library had lists of endowed chairs and curatorships, symposia, exhibitions and general outreach initiatives .

Through the addition of these gifts, the Library aimed to enrich the collections, to make them available to the broadest possible public and, thereby, strengthen its service to the nation. The Library hoped its friends and donors would join in the birthday celebration by making a "Gift to the Nation."

"The importance of the Gifts to the Nation project cannot be overestimated," said Dr. Billington. "Even the world's largest library needs to continue to enrich its collections with important items. The re-creation of Jefferson's library and the acquisition of other rare items that the Library is seeking will benefit our millions of patrons worldwide."

There were no disappointments on April 24. Through the generosity of private donors, the Library received more than $40 million in donations and gifts.

More than half, $22 million in gifts, was given by members of the Library's Madison Council, a private sector advisory group of 100 prominent cultural, business and philanthropic leaders. The Madison Council represents 3 percent of the donor base, according to Larry Stafford of the Library's Development Office. The remainder, $20 million in gifts, came from the other 97 percent of donors.

One of the most ambitious Gifts to the Nation projects is the reconstruction of the original core of the Library, the vast and diverse personal collection of Thomas Jefferson.

In 1815, Jefferson sold his 6,487 volumes to Congress for $23,950, after the British in 1814 burned the U.S. Capitol, including the 3,000 items of the Library of Congress.

Jefferson, a man of encyclopedic interests, had the largest and finest library in the country, containing books in French, Spanish, German, Latin and Greek on a wide variety of subjects: architecture, the arts, science, literature, engineering, philosophy, wine-making and geography. About 11 horse-drawn wagons carried the books from Monticello to the Capitol.

At 7:30 a.m., on Christmas Eve 1851, disaster struck again, when nearly two-thirds of Jefferson's books were destroyed in another Capitol fire that was started by a faulty chimney flue.

Thanks to a five-volume bibliography that describes Jefferson's library as it was in 1815, the Library knows what was in the original Jefferson collection. The bibliography was started in 1943 by E. Millicent Sowerby, as a Jefferson Birthday Bicentennial project (Jefferson was born in 1743.) The first volume was published in 1952 and the last in 1959. Sowerby worked from Jefferson's manuscript list of the books in 1815 and other Library of Congress manuscript lists. She also perused Jefferson's letters to get further descriptions of the books.

Sowerby's bibliography lists 4,931 titles; some entries represent multivolume sets. Sowerby was able to determine which original books were still in the Library and which matching editions could be found in Library collections. Sowerby's groundwork was invaluable nearly 45 years later, when the Library, as a Bicentennial project, decided to re-create the 1815 Jefferson Library.

"There was no serendipity. We knew there were duplicates," said Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, "but locating, retrieving and consolidating several thousand volumes from all corners of the Library was a demanding challenge."

Many entries were located, but 1,012 remained missing. The Library started buying the missing titles on the antiquarian market.

Their purchase is made possible by a $1 million gift from Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his wife, Gene, and by a $100,000 gift from James Elkins and his wife, Margaret.

So far, the Library has bought nearly 300 titles. Mr. Dimunation said the prices for the books vary greatly. "We're getting some for as little as $200 to $300. The most expensive book was $30,000," he said.

Several books have been donated, including one from the University of Virginia, which held two copies of Constantin-Francois Volney's *The Ruins: Or a Survey of the Revolutions of*

Empire, which was translated from the French and published in 1796 by William A. Davis in New York.

The Library still needs 597 titles to complete the Jefferson project. Mr. Dimunation said the Library is combing the antiquarian market, working with an agent, contacting dealers, looking on the Internet and generally asking for help. But he is not sure all the items can be found.

"Some of these books are small pamphlets. Just by their physical nature, they're not likely to have survived," he explained.

Mr. Dimunation also said the books are not the kind that modern bibliophiles are collecting. Jefferson's collection was a working tool; he bought books for their contents. Jefferson did not buy books the way many bibliophiles do today: because they are first editions or in an unusual format.

One thing is certain. The Library would not consider buying a different edition of a needed book. "No," Mr. Dimunation said forcefully. "That would be corrupting the bibliography."

As each book comes into the Jefferson library, more is revealed about Jefferson himself.

Mr. Dimunation said recently in a speech, "Jefferson interacted with his books as if in an intellectual dialogue. They prompted ideas, they fed arguments, they posed puzzles, they offered practical advice, and they explained the unknown forces of the universe. Each book that entered his collection opened another opportunity. And because Jefferson often wrote to others regarding his books, we can follow along as Jefferson leaps, linking one idea to the next."

Although the reconstruction of the Jefferson library has received much attention, many other extraordinary Gifts to the Nation have been donated to the Library.

The Geography and Map Division is celebrating the acquisition of six rare manuscript maps that were drawn by Michel Capitaine du Chesnoy, the skilled cartographer who served as the Marquis de Lafayette's aide-de-camp during the American Revolutionary War.

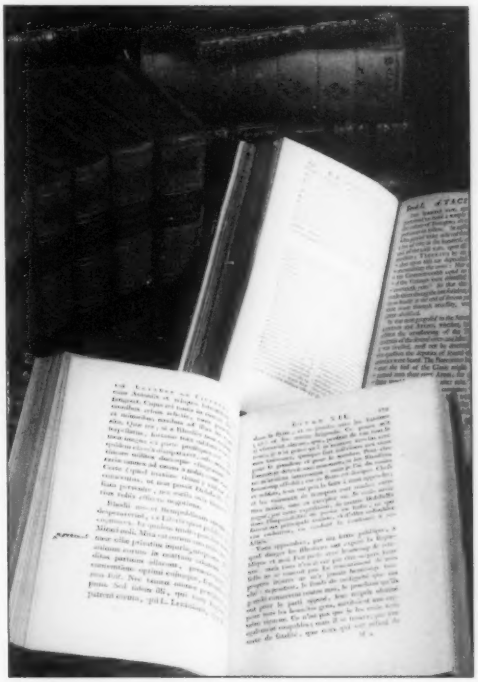
The purchase of the maps was made possible by a $650,000 gift from Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest, members of the Madison Council.

"There are only 18 Capitaine maps in existence. Now we have six," said John Hébert, chief of the Geography and Map Division.

In addition to their rarity, the maps hold great value for the Library because they provide a deeper understanding of events during the Revolutionary War.

"The maps shape a much more full history — who were the participants in the war and how they interacted," said Mr. Hébert.

As a group, the maps document major aspects of Lafayette's activities while serving as a volunteer in the Continental Army directly under Gen. George Washington's command. Gens. Lafayette and Washington eventually brought the fight for independence to a successful conclusion with the surrender of Cornwallis on Oct. 19, 1781, at Yorktown, Va.



More books from Jefferson's library

Idealistic and just 19 years old when he arrived in America in 1777 to assist his hero George Washington in the battle for liberty, Lafayette was accompanied by the talented Capitaine, who served as his aide-de-camp. Today, Capitaine is recognized as one of the finest cartographers of his time.

The maps are beautifully drawn, hand colored and in pristine condition. There is a large map of the 1781 Virginia Campaign, which is accompanied by a brief handwritten text; there are two plans of the 1778 military activities in and around Newport, R.I.; a plan of the retreat from Barren Hill in Pennsylvania, 1778; a map of the Battle of Monmouth, N.J., 1778; and a map showing troop movements between the battles of Ticonderoga and Saratoga in New York, 1777.

The large map of Virginia is considered to be one of the most important examples of Revolutionary War cartography. It documents the many skirmishes and military engagements that took place in 1781 on the long road to victory at Yorktown. Washington directed Lafayette to go to Virginia after the Battle of Monmouth. Capitaine accompanied Lafayette southward, thoroughly documenting sites of engagements in Virginia. He also provided an abundance of economic and social information, including the locations of mills, ferries, plantations and places of worship.

Previously, these maps were in private hands, and their use was restricted to scholars of 18th century America. At the request of the Library's Geography and Map Division, the New York firm of Richard B. Arkway Inc. located the maps and facilitated their purchase.

Another extraordinary acquisition is the Kenneth Walker Architectural Drawings Collection. The Walker collection is an important addition to the Library because it demonstrates how the architectural drawing developed, artistically and technically, over the last four centuries.

Although valued at more than $1 million, the collection was purchased for $500,000; the other half was donated by Kenneth Walker. The Library's portion was made possible through a donation of $500,000 from Nancy Hart Glanville, a Madison Council member and chair of its Visual Arts Acquisitions Subcommittee.

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Bicentennial Background

The Library's Magazines

BY JOHN Y. COLE

Between now and the end of the year, the *Information Bulletin* will examine at the history and development of several of the publications of the Library of Congress. This month, we examine the Library's two principal magazines.

Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress (1994-present)

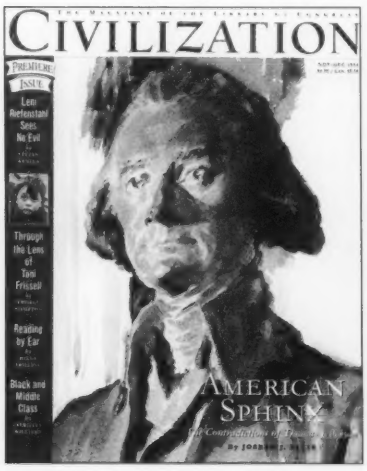
A special section, "The Knowledge Age: The Library of Congress Turns 200," celebrates the Library's Bicentennial in the most recent issue of *Civilization* (April-May 2000).

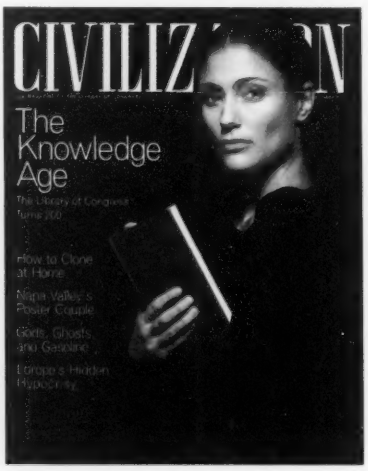
The foreword, "In a Haze of Information, Finding Truth," is by Dr. Billington, in his capacity as guest editor for the issue. Other contributors are Ariel Rosenblum, National Digital Library ("Digital Knowledge: A New Tocquevillian Ideal"), Peggy A. Bulger, American Folklife Center ("Folk Knowledge: Lore for Life), James H. Hutson, Manuscript Division ("Written Knowledge: Illuminating Manuscripts"), this writer ("Printed Knowledge: Myth of the Dying Book"), former Congressional staffer Jeffrey Biggs (Political Knowledge: Confessions of a Staffer"), and Ben Gerson ("Branded Knowledge: Copyrights and Wrongs.") The issue also contains "A Birthday for the Books" a reflective historical article by contributing editor Nicholas von Hoffman, a description of the Jefferson library restoration project by Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, and a review by senior editor Sara Austin of James Conaway's *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000.*

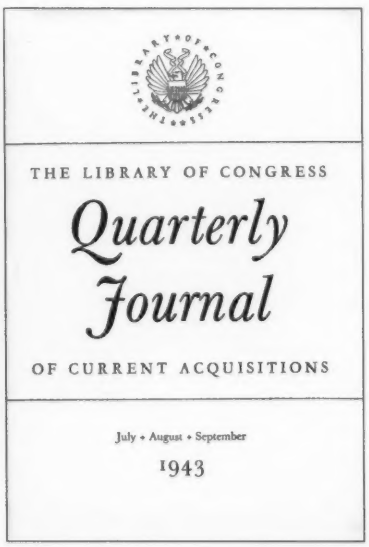
An independent magazine published bimonthly since 1994 under a licensing agreement with the Library, *Civilization* represents a significant departure for the Library of Congress. It is a commercial venture inspired by the Library and its collections but in no way an official Library of Congress publication.

In the early 1980s, Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin (1975-1987) initiated a feasibility study for a commercial magazine connected with the Library of Congress that would reach a broad general audience. In anticipation of such a magazine, in 1983 the Library ceased publication of *The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*, a government publication that had a small, circulation base (paid circulation of about 1,000) and a specialized — if important — appeal. (The winter 1979 issue contains a brief history of the *Quarterly Journal* by Frederick Mohr, its editor.) Negotiations with the private sector for a new magazine, however, did not succeed until the administration of Dr. Billington (1987-present). The first issue of *Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress* was dated November-December 1994 and featured on the cover, appropriately enough, Thomas Jefferson — the subject of a since published biography by Joseph J. Ellis. Since that issue, *Civilization*'s paid circulation has reached 250,000, giving the Library of Congress its largest audience ever for a Library-connected publication. Prior to the special section in the April-May 2000 issue, *Civilization* honored Library of Congress anniversaries in two special issues, one marking the 100th anniversary of the Thomas Jefferson Building, 1897-1997, and "Creative America," which inaugurated the Library's Bicentennial celebration.

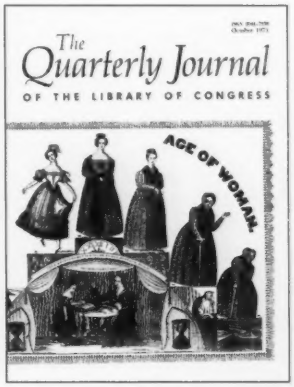
Aimed at a general audience and containing contributions by professional writers, *Civilization* did not "replace" *The Quarterly Journal.* It has a different function. Most of the contributors to *The Quarterly Journal* were Library of Congress specialists, and most of their articles focused on the Library's acquisi-

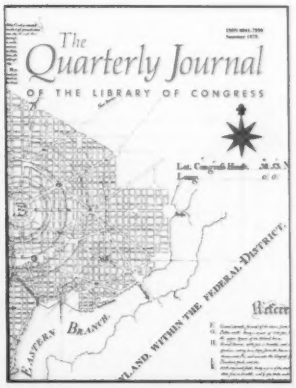






The premiere and current issues of *Civilization, The Magazine of the Library of Congress;* the premier issue of the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal*, with covers through the years opposite.





tions and collections. During its 50-year history, summarized below, *The Quarterly Journal* contributed immensely to the Library's history. Moreover its basic function — communicating information about the Library's collections to a wider audience — is still a Library of Congress priority.

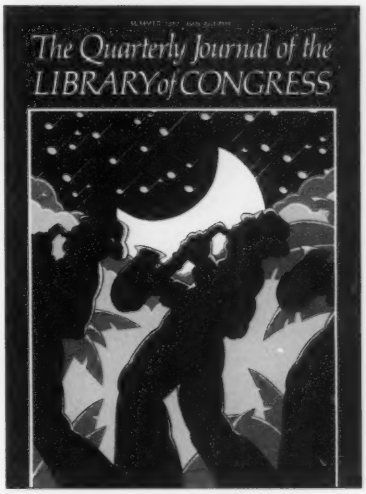
The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress (1943-1983)

The Quarterly Journal was established by Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish under the title *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*. In his introduction to the first issue, dated July-September 1943, Librarian MacLeish described the new journal as "a work of cooperative scholarship" aimed primarily at bringing the collections and programs of the Library to the attention of Congress, the government and the American people. He acknowledged two developments that made this "convenient and useful" publication possible. They were the agreement by the Public Printer to publish the journal, technically speaking, as a supplement to the Library's *Annual Report* and, second, the agreement by the distinguished American poet and critic Allen Tate, the Library's consultant in poetry for 1944, to serve as editor.

MacLeish appointed Robert Penn Warren to be poetry consultant and editor of the *Quarterly Journal* on July 23, 1944. When his term expired on July 15, 1945, editorial responsibility for the journal was transferred to the Acquisitions Department, and John L. Nolan became editor. For the next 20 years the journal systematically emphasized new acquisitions in all of the Library's departments. Many of the descriptions of individual items and collections are unsurpassed. In June 1963 Sarah L. Wallace became editor. A new cover and format were introduced in January 1964, and the words "of Current Acquisitions" were dropped from the title. Readers began seeing fewer articles about acquisitions and more issues devoted to specific topics. Frederick B. Mohr became editor with the October 1977 issue.

Following is a selective sampling of *Quarterly Journal* issues and articles:

- 1943 July, August, September, Vol. 1, No. 1: "Toward a Rare Book Policy in the Library of Congress," by consultant Lawrence C. Wroth.
- 1945 October, Vol 3, No. 1: A special issue containing five articles about the Lessing J. Rosenwald collection.
- 1950 November, Vol 8, No. 1: A special sesquicentennial issue dedicated to the founding of the Library in 1800 and containing eight articles about early Americana.
- 1952 February, Vol 9, No. 2: Two articles about the Alfred Whital Stern collection of Lincolniana, plus annual reports of acquisitions in the Orientalia and Slavica collections and in the subjects of philosophy and religion.
- 1958 May, Vol. 15, No. 3: "Some Thoughts on the Roosevelt Papers" by Elting E. Morison and the catalog of the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Exhibit, plus annual reports about acquisitions of manuscripts, rare books, Hungarica and Slavica.
- 1965 April, Vol. 22, No. 2: This special theme issue on "The Creation of a Notable Book" includes essays by Dan Lacy, Aldous Huxley, Fritz Eichenberg, and Joseph Blumenthal.
- 1972 April, Vol. 28, No. 2: Four articles about the history of copyright.



- 1972 October, Vol 29, No. 4: Four articles about the history of the Jefferson Building.

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Background
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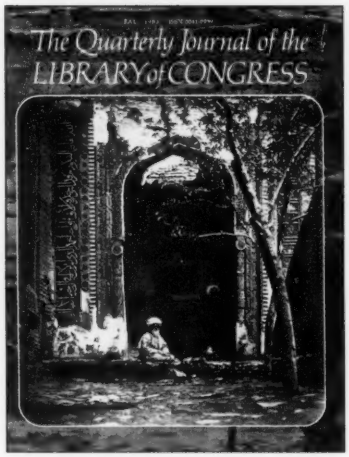
• 1975 April, Vol. 32, No. 2: This issue, which marks the Library's 175th anniversary, begins a series of biographical essays about individual Librarians of Congress. (The 11th and final essay is published in the July 1976 issue).

• 1975 October, Vol.32, No. 4: A special issue about women and the Library's resources for the study of women.

• 1979 Fall, Vol. 36, No. 4: The issue includes a special tribute to poet Allen Tate, the *Quarterly Journal*'s first editor.

• 1980 Summer-Fall, Vol. 37, Nos. 3-4: A double issue containing 12 articles about the Library's motion picture, sound recording and television collections.

• 1983 Fall, Vol. 40, No. 4: The final issue. Editor Frederick Mohr thanks "our authors, who have taken care to follow Librarian Archibald MacLeish's initial instruction that they write as scholars but not necessarily *for* scholars,' the *QJ* staff (associate editors James Hardin, Iris Newsom and Evelyn Sinclair; production manager Johanna Craig; and designer Gerald A. Valerio), who in spite of full schedules, editing and producing the Library's many other publications, have managed to find time to put together this 'work of cooperative scholarship,' and our readers, whose continuing loyalty to a journal that was often elusive and sometimes eccentric firmly establishes their membership in that select group 'to whom books are not tools alone but objects of human and humane interest and concern.'" ◆



Mr. Cole is director of the Center for the Book and co-chair of the Bicentennial Steering Committee.

Gifts
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The more than 120 drawings, now located in the Prints and Photographs Division, represent the work of many masters, such as Antoine Derizet, John Nash, Antonio Sant´Elia, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Rem Koolhaas, Michael Graves, Aldo Rossi, Charles Gwathmey, John Hejduk, Louis-Pierre Baltard, Ferdinando Galli Bibiena, Erich Mendelsohn, Hector Guimard, Louis Kahn, Paul Rudolph, Edwin Lutyens and Stanford White.

C. Ford Peatross, the Library's curator of Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, said other architects, in addition to masters, are included. Also, a variety of drawing types, media and methods of representation are part of the collection, which is both historically and geographically broadly based and includes examples from Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, England, India, Japan, Mexico and the United States.

Mr. Peatross said he is "thrilled" to acquire the Walker Collection, as it greatly enhances the scope and prestige of the Library's existing collections and will promote scholarship. Mr. Walker, in turn, is delighted to see his collection go to the Library and remain intact as a teaching tool, said Mr. Peatross.

Mr. Walker, who received his master's in architecture from Harvard and is now a leader in retail design, collected the drawings from the 1960s to the mid-1980s.

Mr. Peatross said the collection helps to show how architectural drawings really developed. During the Italian Renaissance, architectural drawings became increasingly sophisticated. Travel by architects and the more frequent exhibition and publication of their drawings fostered technical and artistic advances in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Mr. Peatross said, architectural drawings reflected the enormous developments in building technologies, from the use of new materials such as iron and steel and entirely new methods of construction, to the introduction of elaborate and constantly evolving systems for plumbing, heating, cooling, ventilating, illuminating and moving people to, from and within buildings.

The collection reveals more than history. Maricia Battle, assistant curator of Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections, said, "It's interesting to look and compare the drawings and see who was influenced by whom." She and Mr. Peatross displayed drawings and pointed out how Frank Lloyd Wright's son, Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier were obviously influenced by Antonio Sant´Elia.

Not all Gifts to the Nation go to the specific purchase of an item. A number of generous donations have been placed in the American Legacy Endowment, established by Edwin L. Cox, vice chairman of the Madison Council. The endowment supports the future acquisition of important, historically significant items for the national collections.

Charles Durham, a Madison Council member, donated $1 million to the endowment. Nancy Hart Glanville, who helped the Library purchase the Walker architectural drawings, gave another $500,000 to the endowment.

Through a gift arrangement, John Kluge, chairman of the Madison Council, gave $3 million to the Library, which is being used to support numerous events of the Bicentennial celebration this year and over the next few years.

"I am especially grateful for the support and friendship of the Madison Council members and other Library patrons," said Dr. Billington, "Thanks to the generosity of so many, unique historical materials are being brought into America's library, where they will be preserved and made available for future generations." ◆

Ms. Urschel is a freelance writer in the Public Affairs Office.

Conservation Corner

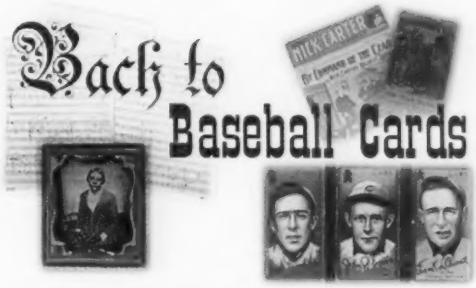
New Web Site Tells Preservation Story

BY MARK S. ROOSA

On April 24 the Library's Preservation Directorate launched *Bach to Baseball Cards,* a Web publication that celebrates 200 years of preservation at the Library of Congress.

The site, **www.loc.gov/preserv/bachbase** contains illustrations and descriptions of some of the most important preservation treatments that have been carried out at the Library. It illustrates both the diversity of the Library's collections and the broad range of creative techniques that have been applied over the years to preserve and protect our nation's rich resources for future generations.

The historical importance of each item described in the publication is followed by a brief discussion of its preservation treatment. Accompanying thumbnail images can be expanded and printed out. Items included in the publication span the range of formats found in the Library's collections and include books, manuscripts, photographs, prints, works of art, sound recordings and moving images.



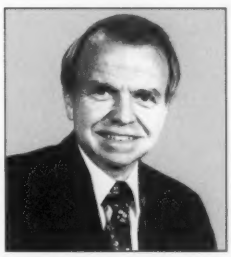
Bach to Baseball Cards was prepared jointly by staff in the Conservation Division and curators in the custodial divisions and is being issued in two online volumes. This first volume contains more than 100 entries. A second volume, to be issued this summer, will complete the publication. ◆

Mr. Roosa is the Library's Conservation Officer.

Distinguished Service

Cole to Receive 2000 Lippincott Award

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is the 2000 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Lippincott Award, which recognizes distinguished service to the profession of librarianship.


John Y. Cole

The cash award of $1,000, originally donated by the late Joseph W. Lippincott, is now donated by his son, Joseph W. Lippincott Jr. Mr. Cole is the third Library of Congress employee to receive the award in its 51-year history. The others were Henriette Avram (1988) and Frank Kurt Cylke (1994). The award and citation will be presented during the ALA annual conference in Chicago in July.

The award recognizes Mr. Cole, a librarian and historian, "for his distinguished service as the founding director and driving force behind the Center for the Book. Under Cole's leadership, the Center for the Book has grown into an office of national and international importance." Furthermore, "Cole has exposed the American people to the power of the written word through dozens of national reading and library promotion projects including the landmark 'Read More About It' series on CBS Television."

In 1996 Mr. Cole received the President's Award of the District of Columbia Library Association for "his outstanding contributions to the library community." In 1992 he received a special achievement award from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for his "strong and spirited leadership" of the Center for the Book, which "has set a standard of excellence for the nation's educational and cultural life that is an inspiration to all."

Mr. Cole came to the Library of Congress in 1966 and worked in the Congressional Research Service and the Reference Department before becoming chair, in 1976, of a Library-wide Task Force on Goals, Organization and Planning established by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin. In 1977, when the task force's work ended, Dr. Boorstin named Mr. Cole the first director of the new Center for the Book.

Mr. Cole is a graduate of the University of Washington, Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University, where in 1971 he received a Ph.D. in American civilization. He is the author of four books and dozens of articles, most of them about the history, collections or activities of the Library of Congress. Since 1978 he has edited 14 publications for the Center for the Book. In addition to his duties as director of the Center for the Book, he has served as the Library's acting associate librarian for cultural affairs (March 1990-February 1992) and acting director of publishing (September 1993-May 1995). He currently is co-chair of the Library's Bicentennial Steering Committee. ◆

Reading, Voice, Publication

'Poetry and the American People' Symposium

BY DONNA URSCHEL

Poetry scholars, writers, publishers and fans packed the Mumford Room on April 4 to attend the Library of Congress Bicentennial Symposium "Poetry and the American People: Reading, Voice and Publication in the 19th and 20th Centuries."

Panelists provided perspectives on the historical context of poetry, on the state of publishing and on poetry as a medium of expression to an enthusiastic crowd, which responded with lively questions and comments.

Also, the producers of the "Favorite Poem Project" film provided a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges of filming the poetry readings, complete with humorous outtakes of the film.

The symposium was part of a two-day event, "Poetry in America: A Library of Congress Bicentennial Celebration," which started on Monday evening, April 3, with readings of "favorite poems" by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and other poets. Mr. Pinsky also presented the first video and audio recordings from his "Favorite Poem Project" to a standing-room-only crowd in the Coolidge Auditorium.

The symposium was sponsored by the Center for the Book, the Madison Council and the Poetry and Literature Center, all in the Library of Congress; the Poetry Society of America; and the Academy of American Poets. John Cole, the Center for the Book director, and Prosser Gifford, the Library's director of Scholarly Programs, moderated the panels.

Experts in the history of reading launched the symposium with a discussion on "Recovering the Experiences of American Readers." They were David D. Hall, Harvard University Divinity School; Barbara Sicherman, Trinity College; and Joan Shelley Rubin, Department of History, University of Rochester.

Mr. Hall cited *Uncle Tom's Cabin,* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, to demonstrate how reader responses to a book change over the years and can differ depending on a reader's perspective.

"We can fashion a history of reading by two principal objectives: one, understand the text that readers encounter and, two, understand the responses of readers themselves," said Mr. Hall.

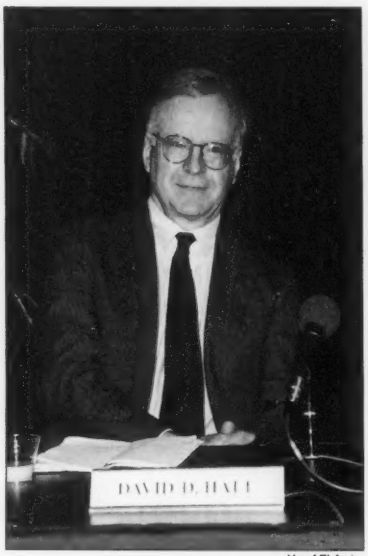
"Text most certainly imposes itself on readers. Who hasn't been either captured and swept away by what they've read or suspicious of and unbelieving of what they've read?" he asked.

Ms. Sicherman, the next speaker, showed how reading changes consciousness and, in turn, changes lives. She examined the reading of two women in the late 19th century, Katherine Thomas, who later became president of Bryn Mawr College, and Rose G. Cohen, who wrote an autobiography, "Out of the Shadow."

"In different ways, reading helped Thomas and Cohen to attain more self-assertive identities than were expected of women in their time and place," she said.

Ms. Sicherman concluded, "The imaginative space opened up by reading can, under the right circumstances, stimulate creativity and foster a reciprocal, rather than a one-way, relationship between books and lives."

The third participant of the panel, Ms. Rubin, traced the love of poetry among several figures in the 19th century to show that "poetry has been a vibrant, active presence in the lives of American people."



Yusef El-Amin

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Panelists at the Bicentennial Symposium "Poetry and the American People: Reading, Voice and Publication in the 19th and 20th Centuries" included David Hall, Barbara Sicherman and Joan Shelley Rubin.

The second panel examined "Poetry and Voice." It included Kenneth Cmiel, Department of History, University of Iowa; Paul Breslin, Department of English, Northwestern University; and Mr. Pinsky.

Mr. Cmiel presented a comprehensive history of poetry, observing how in the 19th century "poetry held a different place in the world than it does today."

"In the mid-19th century, a poet could be conceived of as an unacknowledged legislator of the world; a president like Lincoln could occasionally greet visitors with a poem, and by the time you went through the sixth McGuffey reader, you had read Milton, Burns, Longfellow, Pope, William C. Bryant and Shakespeare, among others," he said.

Through the years, Mr. Cmiel said, poetry shifts in purpose, from a more public, civic role to a more personal form of expression. "Poetry is a quieter voice in the culture," he said. One reason is that poetry had to jostle with all sorts of mass culture.

From 1890 to 1920, the sound culture underwent major shifts that affected poetry. In the 1890s, the popular music industry exploded, with mechanically reproduced sounds such as the player piano and in the 1920s, the radio.

"Poetry is a mix of cadence and words, and music is a mix of cadence, words, melody and harmony. Music is not the same as poetry. Always in music, words are diminished, because some part of the oral response is devoted to the melody, the harmony, the beat," he said.

"Pop music becomes so important in the culture, it pushes poetry and the form of poetic expression to a different place," Mr. Cmiel concluded.

A second thing that changes in those years is the rise of plain-style prose, as espoused in Strunk and White's *Elements of Style.* "Rhetoric falls off the map," Mr. Cmiel said.

"Oratory falls off the map as well," he added. It is replaced by a conversational — unaffected, informal — style of speaking in public. Oratory, according to Mr. Cmiel, was a sister art to poetry. It, too, was about words, rhythm and cadence.

Even in music, the new conversational style was evident in crooning, and the person to truly master the new conversational style in public was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt with his "fireside chats."

Yusef El-Amin

John Cole, director for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, speaks with Kenneth Cmiel of the Department of History at the University of Iowa, one of the presenters at the poetry symposium.

Although poetry is diminished, it continues to be one of the fine arts and holds a strong place in our culture, said Mr. Cmiel. In this "loud culture" of today, poetry can provide a moment of quiet, a gentle way to bring some expression to the wonders of life.

But Mr. Cmiel warns that there is a danger: "We can't let poetry become "too quiet or too personal," lest people will stop reading and writing it all together.

The next panelist was Mr. Breslin, who relayed his recent experience at a Chicago Uptown poetry "slam," an informal event in which participants recite poetry as a performance art.

"What I liked about the slam was its openness and spontaneity. It was not a sanctimonious location; it was a bar. What I don't like is the competitive aspect of the event, the instant response and critique of the audience."

The last member of the "Poetry and Voice" panel was Mr. Pinsky, who ironically lost his voice to laryngitis and spoke only briefly.

"In poetry, the voice that matters is not the voice of the skilled performer and it's not the voice of the professor; it's the voice of whoever likes the work of art," Mr. Pinsky said.

"If poetry is on the uprise, it is the response to an elegant, beautiful mass culture," Mr. Pinsky added.

The panelists then took questions from the audience. One woman asked a question that elicited a variety of opinions throughout the symposium. She explained that she writes poetry, but people have advised her that her poems are not universal. "What makes a poem universal?" she asked.

Mr. Pinsky was the first to answer. He said it is the physical appeal of the poem, the elegance and beauty of the sound that creates its universality. "If it is arranged artfully enough," Mr. Pinsky said, "the reader will hang on until he understands it."

Mr. Breslin said the poem needs to be "utterly true to experience" to be universal. But Mr. Gifford, the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs director, said perceptions change. "Byron used to be considered universal. Universality is subject to taste."

Another question from an English teacher generated laughter from many in the audience: "I'd like to bring this answer home to my students. Could you explain to them why English teachers make them memorize and recite poetry?"

Mr. Breslin, who makes his students memorize two poems per quarter, provided an answer, "You don't really get inside the poem until you read it out loud. So when you memorize the poem, it starts to be a part of you. You have to live with it awhile."

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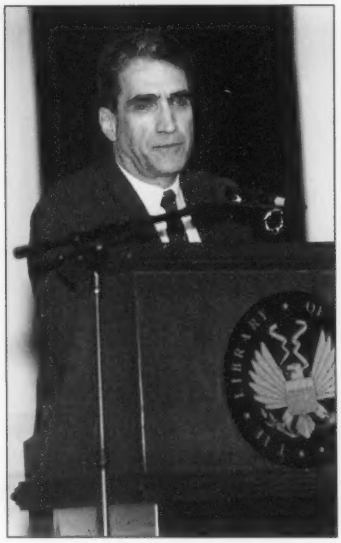

Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky (left), with "Favorite Poem" readers Rita Dove, Louise Glück, W.S. Merwin, Joshua Weiner, Naomi Shihab Nye and Bill Ivey.

Favorite Poems

Poet Laureate Closes His Third Term

BY NATALIE J. EVANS

A young woman standing in her living room in front of a video camera told a story of family hardship and courage and read "The Minstrel Man" by Langston Hughes: "Because my mouth is wide with laughter and my throat is deep with song, you do not think I have suffered, after I have held my pain so long, because my mouth is wide with laughter, you do not hear my inner dancing, you can not know I die."

The words, Pov Chin said, described the person she had become.

Pov Chin, whose family came to America to escape genocide in Cambodia, was among the Americans reading their favorite poems for "Poetry in America: Favorite Poems," a project to document for the Library's permanent archives the poetry Americans were reading at the time of the Library's Bicentennial, which coincides with the turn of the century.

Closing his unprecedented third term as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Robert Pinsky capped his Favorite Poem Project on April 3 with a presentation to the Library of the video and audio recordings that capture Americans talking about and reading poems that have particular meaning for them.

Poets themselves also read their favorites, when Mr. Pinsky was joined in the Coolidge Auditorium by Bicentennial Poetry Consultants Rita Dove, a former poet laureate; Louise Glück, and W.S. Merwin. Witter Bynner fellows Joshua Weiner and Naomi Shihab Nye also read, as did Bill Ivey, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who recited a poem he said "was instrumental in repairing a broken heart and relationship."

Though not a smoke-filled coffee house filled with people gathered to hear the words and rhythms of the poets of the "beat generation," the Coolidge was packed with a crowd whose faces mirrored thoughts and emotions prompted by the stories and poems they heard. (The event was also cybercast on the Library's Web site.)

Pov Chin spoke about the dangers that her family encountered and the killing of her grandmother and brother as they ran for safety toward the Thailand border. Ms. Chin said that , like the "Minstrel Man," she walked around the halls of her school, smiling and looking happy when in fact she was filled with grief as she remembered all those who had died so she could live.

In another video segment, an aging mother found comfort in the poem "The Holy Longing" by Johann Wolfgang von Goëthe. Though "parents never expect one's children to die first," Olivia Milward said, her eldest daughter died from cancer. Nothing could ever remove that pain, she said, but the poem provided some solace.

Todd Hellems, a student, tried to express himself to his family, to explain the struggles he encountered on a daily basis, but he could not find the words until he read "Yet Do I Marvel" by Countee Cullen. Then, after Cullen provided the words, Mr. Hellems could say, "Yet, do I marvel at this curious thing, to make a poet black and bid him sing."

Student John Ulrich described his South Boston neighborhood, where, as in other American cities, young people were experiencing the trauma of living in a drug culture. Drugs and despair were causing them to feel hopeless and creating a community frightened for its future. Mr. Ulrich said he had experienced friends committing suicide and dying from heroin overdoses. The poem, "We Real Cool," by Gwendolyn Brooks, helped put into focus the plight of his generation. He and his friends organized a community group to bring hope to the neighborhood.

Richard Samuel, a native of Seattle, found that Frank O'Hara's "Poem" expressed the need for people to feel in control, even though they may be very much out of control.

A middle school student, Kiyoshi Houston, was fortunate. His mother exposed him to poetry at an early age. Reading in Japanese and then English, Kiyoshi expressed the beauty in the poem by Sone-No Yoshitada, "The Lower Leaves of the Trees." But it was his grandfather's voice that brought relevance to the poem and exposure to the beauty of the words. He told Kiyoshi, "The sunset of purple and orange engulfs and grabs, the angels and ancestors are cooking cookies for you."

A photographer, Seth Rodney, remembered returning home after having been rejected by a woman. Rodney said he decided to read a poem by Sylvia Plath, "Nick and the Candlestick." The worlds of the author and this photographer were far apart, yet he was able to connect with her words. Mr. Rodney, a Jamaican immigrant, found that Plath's poem "spoke directly to my life." ◆

Ms. Evans is on temporary assignment in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

Yusef El-Amin

"Favorite Poem" readers greet members of the audience after the April 3 presentation in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium.

Symposium
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In the third panel, "Making of the Favorite Poem Project and Tapes," Maggie Dietz, project director; Juanita Anderson, executive producer; and other members of the production team discussed their efforts to film the poetry readings.

Ms. Anderson said it was a challenge to find ways to make the poems come alive. In addition to the reading, Ms. Anderson said she was trying to convey a sense of who the reader was and a sense of place.

"People ask, 'How did you get everyone to be so intimate?' It was a bonding process. You let them get to know you. You have to have a conversation, and you have to get them to forget the cameras are there," Ms. Anderson explained.

The fourth panel, "Poets and Publishers," included four participants: Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo College; Robert Boyers, editor, *Salmagundi;* Leslie Morris, Harvard College Library, and Jack Shoemaker, publisher, *Counterpoint.*

Mr. Boyers, whose magazine receives 5,000 unsolicited manuscripts per year, said there is a lot of good poetry out there — "many, many excellent poets" — but it's hard to get published. Many magazines tend to go with writers who are previously published. He said a proliferation of writing programs has generated more manuscripts.

"In short, although there is too much poetry out there to take in, much is admirable and compelling," said Mr. Boyers.

Mr. Ward, a critic, writer and editor whose most recent work is *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of African American Poetry* (1997), said he disagrees with Mr. Pinsky's affection for poetry on the Internet. (The poet laureate is the poetry editor for the online magazine *Slate.*) "While there's some good things to be said of the Internet, poetry still loves the page vs. the screen. I still want the look and the feel of the printed page," Mr. Ward said.

Even when Mr. Ward writes poetry, he prefers pencil and paper. "At certain stages of composition, I must have the evolving product on the page and not on the screen," he said.

Ms. Morris, an archivist at the Harvard College Library, discussed how James Laughlin founded and operated his literary magazine, *New Directions,* which she described as a case study in poetry publishing. Funded by a wealthy aunt, Mr. Laughlin ran his magazine in the red for 40 years. In the 1970s, it started to make a profit. His philosophy, Ms. Morris said, was to publish only what he liked.

She read excerpts from letters exchanged between Mr. Laughlin and William Carlos Williams. She also discussed Mr. Laughlin's dealings with the troubled Dylan Thomas. "Jay [Mr. Laughlin] attracted and kept good poets because he cared for their interests in every way," she said.

Mr. Shoemaker, the last panelist to speak, provided a historical context to the last 40 years of poetry publishing. In the '60s and early '70s, there was a golden age of poetry publishing, because of a proliferation of small-press magazines. In the late '70s and the '80s, the poetry market was abysmal. "Poetry sales plummeted, the small press disappeared; there was a crisis in publishing," he said.

The '90s, however, has been a time of expansion, with brisk poetry sales and the appearance of poetry slams. Writing schools are crammed, according to Mr. Shoemaker.

"This is a time on fire. As poets and publishers, we can enjoy ourselves for this moment," he said.

On that positive note, the symposium moved to its concluding event, the reading of their own poetry by Joshua Weiner, Naomi Shihab Nye, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Louise Glück, and W.S. Merwin. ◆

Ms. Urschel is a freelance writer in the Public Affairs Office.

Lincoln scholars at a March 25 Library symposium included Doris Kearns Goodwin, Allen Guelzo, Daniel Stowell, Cullom Davis, William Lee Miller, Kenneth Winkle and Thomas Turner.

The Latest on Lincoln

Symposium on Lincoln Scholarship Convenes

BY PAUL VERDUIN

How did Abraham Lincoln develop his fabled forbearance? How did he manage to rise from such humble origins? How vast and varied was his law practice, and how did it serve his political ambitions? Did he indulge his mind by digesting the weighty works of philosophical writers like Mill, Carey and Wayland? Was his tragic assassination a Confederate plot? And did his law partner despise his troubled widow as he turned to writing his controversial biography of Lincoln?

These and other questions about our 16th president were addressed and debated at the Library on March 25 during an all-day symposium appropriately titled "The Latest in Lincoln Scholarship." Co-sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Institute of the Mid-Atlantic and the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the event featured presentations by seven nationally recognized Lincoln scholars, followed by remarks from noted presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin.

The opening speaker before the capacity audience was University of Virginia professor William Lee Miller, author of *Arguing About Slavery,* a much-praised book dealing with an earlier 19th century antislavery figure, John Quincy Adams. Turning his thoughts to Lincoln, Mr. Miller engaged his audience with a close-up view of his evolution from a vitriolic Illinois political attack-man of the 1830s and early '40s, to the paragon of civility, magnanimity and forbearance that characterized his presidency. Mr. Miller, an ethics professor, titled his address "A Very Poor Hater: Instances of Lincoln's Magnanimity."

The symposium's second address, "An American Journey: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln," was delivered by Kenneth J. Winkle of the University of Nebraska. Calling Lincoln "a self-described self-made man," Mr. Winkle said there was "surprising complexity" in this characterization. Popularized by renowned political leader Henry Clay, the self-made concept was understood in Lincoln's day as "one who rendered himself great by his own efforts." Lincoln, Mr. Winkle contended, was "adept at identifying and seizing opportunities for self-advancement," particularly during the great economic expansion in Illinois and other Western states between 1832 and 1836. The economic downturn known as the Panic of 1837 "could not have been more fortunate in its timing," since it precipitated a brisk demand for attorneys as young Lincoln was admitted to the Illinois Bar.

Cullom Davis, the senior editor and director of the Lincoln Legal Papers project throughout most of the 15-year effort, and Daniel W. Stowell, who took over as director and general editor in January, deftly demonstrated to the audience how to access and make sense of the nearly 100,000 computer-based documents in the DVD-ROM *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition.* Cases as diverse as murder trials, domestic squabbles and high-powered railroad litigation were explored.

"Herndon and Mary Todd had never gotten along," David Herbert Donald pronounced in *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948), his benchmark biography of Lincoln's third law partner, William Henry Herndon. Although the story of Herndon's hatred of Mary Todd Lincoln has found universal acceptance for five decades, Douglas L. Wilson, co-director of the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College, expressed profound doubt about Donald's thesis. "There is no evidence Herndon hated Mary Todd, or wanted to get back at her, declared the author of the Lincoln Prize-winning *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln* (1998). Mr. Wilson recounted a humorous 1837 episode, when, after dancing for the first time with 19-year-old Springfield debutante Mary Todd, Herndon complimented her for dancing "with the ease of a serpent." The primordial "serpent" tale has always been understood as the fatal faux pas that earned the brash youth Mary's lasting enmity.

Mr. Wilson, however, sees the episode differently: Herndon, meaning no insult, immediately saw the unintended effect of his remark, regretted

it, and became "very apologetic." What's more, he does not think Mary held the incautious remark against Herndon. Years later, in 1866, Mr. Wilson finds the widowed Mary Lincoln's letter to Herndon accepting his interview invitation to be "very gracious" in tone. "She trusted him with sensitive information."

Mr. Wilson makes no attempt to deny that Mary was furious when Herndon published his 1866 lecture on the Ann Rutledge romance, which depicted the maid of New Salem as the only woman Lincoln ever loved, and went on to declare that during their 23-year marriage, "Mr. Lincoln has known no joy." Herndon never asserted, Wilson maintained, that the unhappy character of the marriage was "solely the fault of Mary." The fortuitous result of the troubled union, Herndon believed, was that it was a crucial factor in Lincoln's becoming president.

Thomas R. Turner, historian at Bridgewater State College, opened the afternoon session by taking issue with the thesis put forward by William Tidwell, James O. Hall and David Gaddy in *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln.* Their theory is that John Wilkes Booth was taking orders from Jefferson Davis's collapsing rebel administration. Mr. Turner believes the available evidence, or lack thereof, conclusively supports the view that Booth and his co-conspirators acted alone, without Confederate help.

"If we haven't heard about Lincoln as a man of ideas, it is because we have been listening with tin ears." With this criticism, Allen C. Guelzo, dean of the Templeton Honors College at Eastern College, challenged the attendees to reexamine the Prairie Rail Splitter's remarkable intellect. The 2000 Lincoln Prize laureate quoted William Herndon's estimation that "Lincoln was far from the country innocent that many people imagined him to be." "Lincoln was a persistent thinker and a profound analyzer ... entirely logical ... shrewd ... cunning. ... [He was] the superior of all and governed by his intellectual superiority."

Citing intellectual works read and digested by Lincoln, Mr. Guelzo began with those of Charles Lyell and Robert Chambers. The latter turned Lincoln into what Herndon called "a firm believer in the theory of development [evolution]." Continuing his list, Mr. Guelzo mentioned works of political economy read by Lincoln: John Stuart Mill, Henry Carey and Francis Wayland. The result was that "Lincoln had no trouble holding his own, with ease" in discussions centering on "the great intellectual controversies of the 19th century." The president's best friend, Joshua Speed, said "Lincoln's mind was of a metaphysical and philosophical order. He read law, history, Thomas Brown's philosophy, or William Paley, Burns, Byron, Milton, or Shakespeare." "Today, we prefer to avoid the strife of ideas," Mr. Guelzo concluded, "But it was the strife of such ideas which brought us Abraham Lincoln."

In her impromptu remarks during the speakers' panel discussion, author Doris Kearns Goodwin, who is in the middle of writing her biography of the Lincoln presidency, declared, "Lincoln was more married to his Cabinet than to Mary during the Civil War. The Cabinet members came to grow under Lincoln, and respect him and accept his leadership," she added.

"I'm fascinated with the circle that included not only these men, but their wives and daughters as well. There is a thing about fathers and daughters here that I want to explore." According to Goodwin, "the pleasure these men had in the company of other men" in the Cabinet is an important dynamic — one that is in stark contrast to the iciness apparent in Jefferson Davis's Confederate Cabinet. ◆

Mr. Verduin is an independent historical researcher.

Resolutions
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goal as it embarks on its third century."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2000 as a time to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Library of Congress. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate the many contributions the Library of Congress has made to strengthening our democracy and our national culture.

In Witness Thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth. (s) William J. Clinton

Proclamation from the Mayor of the District of Columbia

Library of Congress Day, April 24, 2000; A Proclamation by the Mayor of the District of Columbia

Whereas the Library of Congress, America's oldest federal cultural institution, was established in the District of Columbia on April 24, 1800, and both the Library of Congress and the District of Columbia are celebrating their Bicentennials in the year 2000; and

Whereas, the Library of Congress' Bicentennial theme of "Libraries-Creativity-Liberty" recognizes the contribution that all libraries make to our nation and our local communities; and

Whereas the District of Columbia is participating in Local Legacies, a Library of Congress Bicentennial project that will document the District of Columbia's distinctive cultural traditions; and

Whereas in its two hundred years of existence, the Library of Congress has become the world's largest and most comprehensive library, and also one of the most accessible, providing service through 21 reading rooms on Capitol Hill and its Web site which, by registering more than four million transactions each working day, is one of the most frequently used Web sites in the world; and

Whereas the District of Columbia Public Library, in a new partnership with the Library of Congress, has been designated the District of Columbia Center for the Book, through which it will celebrate, honor, and promote books, reading, literacy and the literary heritage of the District of Columbia:

Now, Therefore, I, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, do proclaim April 24, 2000, as "**Library of Congress Day**" in Washington, D.C. (s) Anthony A. Williams, Mayor, District of Columbia ◆

Egypt: Yesterday and Tomorrow

Library Symposium Examines Egypt's Globalization

BY DONNA URSCHEL

Despite some roadblocks, Egypt is on its way to becoming part of the global community, said experts at the symposium "Egypt and Globalization" on March 28 at the Library.

Experts described how Egypt has taken important economic and political steps toward globalization. Policies are still needed, however, to solve many complex issues, such as illiteracy, unemployment and the high cost of communications technology.

The symposium, sponsored by the African and Middle Eastern Division of the Library, was part of a one-day program on "Egypt: Yesterday and Tomorrow," which began with the visit the day before of first lady Suzanne Mubarak of Egypt.

Mrs. Mubarak, chairman of the International Commission for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, gave a talk on the ancient Library of Alexandria and on the international effort under way to revive the library.

The following day's symposium consisted of two panels: globalization in the Egyptian media and globalization and the Egyptian economy. Mary-Jane Deeb, Arab world area specialist at the Library, and Prosser Gifford, the Library's director of Scholarly Programs, chaired the panels.

Media panelists included Shafik Gabr, publisher of a new English-language monthly magazine in Cairo called *Pharaohs;* William Rugh, former ambassador to Yemen and president of America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST); and Mohammed Wahby, president of the Association of Arab Correspondents in Washington.

Mr. Gabr, whose new magazine focuses on globalization in Egypt and the Middle East, urged Egypt to privatize its media and other industries. He also described other important challenges ahead for the country, including the need to improve the standard of living by creating jobs, the need to attract foreign investments and the need for effective public-private partnerships.

Dr. Billington and Egypt's first lady, Suzanne Mubarak, greet Mary-Jane Deeb, the Library's Arab world area specialist, and Mona Makram-Ebeid, an American University professor and former member of the Egyptian Parliament. On the eve of the Egypt and Globalization symposium, Mrs. Mubarak delivered a lecture on the ancient Library of Alexandria.

"The Mideast economies are all in transition. We are at a very serious crossroads," he said.

Mr. Gabr said he started his magazine eight months ago to bring into focus the issues related to Egypt's entering the world economy.

"*Pharaohs* is a response to globalization. It provides information from outside Egypt to Egypt and from Egypt to the outside in English. *Pharaohs* has a mission of bringing together leaders on what's happening in this transition. It provides a platform for dialogue on the issue," he explained.

The next panelist was Mr. Rugh, who presented a historical overview of the role of the media in Egypt and the Arab world. He outlined the long history of the media in Egypt, whose first daily newspaper was published in 1828. In 1953, Egypt was a pioneer in radio broadcasting in the Arab world, and in the early 1960s Egyptian television became important for news and entertainment. The 1970s, however, saw a lessening in influence, as the new mass media, such as the Internet and cable television, drew viewers away from the traditional Egyptian media.

The third media panelist was Mohammed Wahby, who noted that, "except for the fall of the Berlin Wall and dissolution of the Soviet Union, no other subject [in recent history] has created as much controversy in the media as globalization."

He argued that to some globalization comes with a set of positive values: democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. ... To others, globalization is perceived as emanating from the United States and imposing a Western value system on the entire world.

"Why does the debate about globalization rage so furiously in Egypt?" he asked, and then answered, "The concept of the state is deeply ingrained in the Egyptian soul, and during the last two centuries, Egypt played a leading role in the culture and politics of the Arab

world. The centrality of Egypt might be threatened by globalization."

The Egyptian economy was the focus of a panel that included Kemal Dervis, vice president for the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank; Ibrahim Khalifa, director of the Egyptian Growth Investment Co.; and Richard Holmes, president of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Dervis said Egypt went through "some really radical" economic changes and transformations during the past 15 years. The 1970s were good years for the economy, but 1980s were "terrible for Egypt," because of a collapse of oil prices and a stalemate in the Egyptian economy, he explained. The public sector and trade deficits were huge, and there was a large foreign debt.

Luckily, creditors gave Egypt a 50 percent reduction in debt, and this relief "completely turned around Egypt's economy," Mr. Dervis said. But those years of hardship in the 1980s — which resulted in cutbacks in social and public expenditures — took a toll on the infrastructure of Egypt, he said.

For Egypt to compete successfully in the global marketplace, it must:

Improve skill formation and education, said Mr. Dervis. "Egypt is trying hard, but the challenge is huge. Higher education needs a radical overhaul. The public sector cannot do it by itself. The private sector has to enter the sphere, but not just with private academies for the wealthy."

The second challenge is to create a trade policy with Europe. Mr. Dervis thinks this can be achieved by providing services, specifically tourism and high technology.

"Egypt is very underexploited in the tourist area. Tourism can grow 20 to 25 percent," Mr. Dervis said.

The third challenge is for Egypt to create a strong social policy to aid its less fortunate citizens.

"With globalization, there will be large segments of the population who will feel left out. It is unavoidable for a while," he said.

Mr. Khalifa, who followed Mr. Dervis, described some of Egypt's economic successes: The nation has reduced its budget deficit year after year and, as of fiscal year 1998-99, was at 1.3 percent of gross domestic product. Egypt has reduced inflation from 21 percent in 1991-92 to 3.8 percent in 1998-99, and Mr. Khalifa pointed out that Egypt has a strong foreign currency reserve of about U.S. $18 billion.

Privatization, according to Mr. Khalifa, has helped Egypt to revitalize its stock market, receive an influx of foreign investments, develop new management and new management techniques and create a generation of new entrepreneurs. It has even helped attract Egyptians living abroad to return home.

The symposium concluded with Mr. Holmes, who discussed the role of communication technology in globalizing the Egyptian economy. He noted that Egypt must improve its technology infrastructure and provide citizens with increased access to the new technologies. In answer to criticisms about globalization, Mr. Holmes said, "technology imposes itself and there's nothing you can do about it." ◆

Ms. Urschel is a freelance writer in the Public Affairs Office.

Tracer Bullet

New Publication Features 18th Century Technology

As part of the Library's Bicentennial celebration, the Science, Technology and Business Division has published an additional subject bibliography in its "Tracer Bullet" series. "Science and Technology in 18th Century America" is a 24-page guide to a variety of materials and sources in the collections of the Library of Congress, which is helpful in researching science, invention, technology and medicine during this period in history.

Not intended to be a comprehensive bibliography, this guide is designed to put the reader "on target" — as the name of the series implies. There are suggested subject headings under which books can be located in the Library's card, book, and online catalogs. Also included are references to introductory works, basic texts, and numerous specialized titles, including biographies and bibliographies, books for younger readers, and a guide to Internet sources.

All Tracer Bullets from 1989 to the present, as well as a some earlier issues, are accessible on SCTB Online at **lcweb2.gov/sctb** or on the Science Reading Room home page on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/rr/scitech**.

The printed publication is free, and may be obtained by writing to the Science, Technology, and Business Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 20540, or by calling (202) 707-5664. A list is available of many other Tracer Bullets on a range of subjects in science, technology and medicine. ◆

Stephen Sondheim Salute To Air June 21 on NPR

On May 22, the Library of Congress held a special 70th birthday tribute to this titanic figure in the history of the American musical theater, which included a concert version of his rarely heard 1974 musical, *The Frogs*, based on the comedy by Aristophanes, and a selection of Sondheim's favorite songs by other writers, offered with the composer's personal commentary.

Performers at the concert event included Nathan Lane, Audra McDonald, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Marin Mazzie, Debra Monk and Davis Gaines.

The Stephen Sondheim birthday salute will be broadcast on National Public Radio stations on June 21 — check your local listings for stations and times. ◆

News from the Center for the Book

Reading Promotion Partners Meet at the Library

"Today, literacy and reading promotion are hot topics," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole on March 17 in welcoming participants to the center's annual "idea exchange" for its national reading promotion partners.

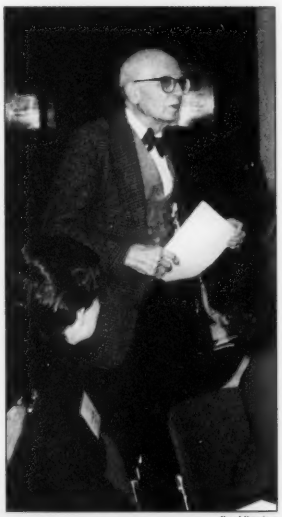
"The Center for the Book has been in the business since 1977, and I cannot recall a more active or upbeat time. I especially want to thank those organizations that were part of this partnership network when it started in 1987 and have stayed with us. I also offer a special welcome to the many new organizations that have joined us in recent years and are here today to share their best ideas and to find new project partners."

Forty educational and civic organizations sent representatives to the meeting in the Library's Mumford Room, which was decorated with reading promotion posters and filled with descriptive literature about projects sponsored by reading promotion partners.

In her remarks, Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene D. Williams described the center's expanding Web site (**www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook**) and its increasing importance to all of the Center for the Book's activities. In addition to descriptions about the center's projects and publications, it includes information and links to more than 300 organizations in the United States and around the world that promote books, reading, literacy and libraries. The list includes universities and scholarly institutions concerned with book and library history. Ms. Williams cited statistics about the Web site's steadily increasing use: in February 2000, for example, 23,030 transactions were handled by the center's site, compared to 21,172 in February 1999.

Anne Boni, the center's program specialist in charge of the reading promotion partners network, presented an overview of current Center for the Book activities, briefly mentioning the following projects: Building a Nation of Readers, the national reading promotion theme for 1997-2000, Letters About Literature, River of Words and the Viburnum Foundation Family Literacy Project. She also discussed two Library of Congress Bicentennial projects/themes that the Center for the Book will carry into the new century through its reading promotion and affiliated state center partnership networks: Favorite Poem, and "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries," which will be cosponsored with the American Library Association. She stressed that these projects offer many opportunities for continuing and future partnerships.

The meeting featured brief presentations from every organization present, plus several special presentations introduced by moderator John Cole. Holly O'Donnell of the U.S. Department of Education started with a description of the America Reads Challenge. This project, an effort to increase the reading proficiency among America's youth, aims



Jim Higgins

Jim Higgins

Jim Higgins

Participants in the 2000 annual "idea exchange" for the Center for the Book's national reading promotion program included (from top): Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel Boorstin, the center's founder; Ruthann Saenger, National Federation of Press Women with author Louisa Moat, who holds her book, *Straight Talk About Reading;* Center for the Book Program Specialist Anne Boni with Marie Harris Aldridge of the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science Taskforce.

"to have all children reading well and independently by the end of the third grade." The Center for the Book assisted in organizing America Reads in 1996 and has supported its expansion in subsequent years. The presentations continued through lunch, concluding with a statement from Vera Hunter of the Church and Synagogue Library Association.

Educator Louisa C. Moats, coauthor of *Straight Talk About Reading: How Parents Can Make a Difference During the Early Years* (1999), made a special presentation about "tips for reading tutors." Drawing on current research about reading instruction, she emphasized the importance of printed matter to acquiring vocabulary. Ms. Moats also is the author of *Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science* (1999), a booklet prepared for the American Federation of Teachers, a Center for the Book partner.

Mary Haggerty of the Boston television station WGBH gave a special video presentation about "Between the Lions," the new PBS daily program that helps kids learn to read. Set in a library and aimed at children between the ages of 4 and 7 and their families, the series combines innovative puppetry, animation, live action and music into an entertaining learning adventure. It is co-produced by WGBH Boston and Sirius Thinking Ltd., and funded in part by a grant from the Education Department through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Since 1996 the Center for the Book and several of its reading promotion partners have been advising the developers of "Between the Lions," particularly about how the series can be introduced to families, literacy professionals, educators and librarians. Mary Haggerty announced that the center and the other 14 "founding partners" would be included in forthcoming national advertising for the series in national newsmagazines and in *The New York Times*.

Virginia Mathews, the center's consultant for the Viburnum Foundation/Center for the Book Family Literacy project, concluded the day with a plea for including libraries in reading promotion and literacy projects. She also called for "full-flowered literacy," by which she meant exposing children as early as possible not only to books but also to the idea that books are part of every aspect of life. ◆

Jim Higgins

Jim Parker represented the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Center for the Book Reading Promotion Partners at the March 17 Annual Meeting

Academy of American Poets
America Reads, U.S. Department of Education
American Foundation for the Blind
American Library Association
American Printing House for the Blind
Armed Services YMCA
"Between the Lions," WGBH
Book Adventure Foundation
Book It!, Pizza Hut
Books for Kids Foundation
Church and Synagogue Library Association
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
District Lines Poetry Project
Everybody Wins! DC
First Book
Friends of Libraries USA
General Federation of Women's Clubs
International Board of Books for Young People
International Reading Association
International Rivers Network
Kidsnet
Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy
Literacy Volunteers of America Inc.
Lutheran Church Library Association
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance
National Council on the Aging Inc.
National Endowment for the Arts
National Federation of Press Women
National Newspaper Association Foundation
New Jersey Connection
PBS Literacy Link
Read Across America, National Education Association
Reading Is Fundamental Inc.
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
U.S. National Institute for Literacy
Vermont Center for the Book
White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science Taskforce
Women's National Book Association

Jim Higgins

Dr. Billington, Jonathan Key (*The Enterprise Mountaineer*, Waynesville, N.C.) and Rep. Charles H. Taylor (R-N.C.), chairman of the House subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations, at the April 13 National Newspaper Association's congressional luncheon, which was hosted by the Center for the Book on April 13.

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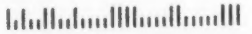

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